Belper Urban District Council.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year 1941.

RICHARD CLAYTON ALLEN,
M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P., (Lond.) D.P.H. (Birm.)

Report of Sanitary Inspector

FRANCIS COSTELLO,
A.R.San.I., Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A., Cert. Insp. Meat and other Foods.

Chairman of Council: Coun. D. A. Smedley.
Chairman of Health Committee: Coun. J. W. Blackham.
Clerk to Council. Mr. J. Percy R. Pym.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District in acres	4,294
Rateable Value	£75,154
General Rate for 1941	11/10
Product of a Penny Rate	£320
Total Debt for all purposes	£122,524 9s. 7d.
Debt for housing only	£81,649 0s. 11d.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

Population for the year 1931	13,023
Estimated population for the year 1941	14,880
Number of houses on the Rate Book	3,934
Number of new houses erected during 1941 by Local Authority	Nil
Do., By Private Enterprise	2
Number of Live Births Registered: Boys 90, Girls 102	192
Number of Illegitimate Births: Boys 4, Girls 2	6
Still Births—Males 5, Females 2	7
Number of Deaths: Males 75, Females 91	166
Death Rate per 1,000 of population	11.16
Infantile Mortality per 1,000 births	67.7
Deaths from Measles	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough	Nil
Deaths from Diphtheria	1
Deaths from Cancer	17

Riversdale,
Belper,
June, 1942.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Belper Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my 21st Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the district, for the year ended 31st December, 1941.

War-time circumstances have again made it necessary to keep the Report short, but, as last year, every endeavour has been made to include all vital information relating to the Health Service.

During the year much progress was made in the immunisation of children against diphtheria. At the end of the year 1,069 children had received the full treatment, and a considerable number of others were receiving treatment, but it had not been completed at that time.

There were five cases of diphtheria during the 12 months, and this is similar to the year before, whilst in 1939 there were 42 cases. None of the cases mentioned had been immunised.

The number of cases of notifiable disease for the year is very high, being nearly treble those for the previous year, the reason being epidemics of measles and whoping cough in the early months of the year. Measles and whoping cough cases numbered 264 and 40 respectively, as against 31 and three the year before.

Nine cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis reported is similar to 1940, and one case of Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis is a reduction of one on the 1940 figures.

Scarlet Fever cases (53) is a decrease of 14 on the year previous. Cerebro-spinal fever cases (3) is a decrease of three on 1940 figures, whilst six cases of Erysipelas is an increase of three, and 11 cases of Pneumonia show a similar increase.

I am pleased to report that there was only one case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, and no cases of either Puerperal Pyrexia or Typhoid; and, in fact, it is now six years since the last typhoid case.

The Tuberculosis Dispensary at the County Offices, Derby, is open on Friday of each week for the treatment of patients, who are also visited at their homes by the Tuberculosis Officer and the Health Visitor.

From time to time I have visited all the schools in the district, and am quite satisfied with their general condition and the health and cleanliness of the children attending.

Together with your Sanitary Inspector, I have visited many farms and also premises where food is prepared, and in all cases a reasonable standard of cleanliness prevails.

Overcrowding of houses has in many instances come to my notice, but it would appear that, except for the very bad cases, we shall have to permit this, at least for the duration of the War.

Many housing defects and nuisances have been dealt with by your Sanitary Inspector, and I think at the present time we can consider ourselves fortunate in the health of the district, and in the services of the town, which are being maintained practically at pre-war standard.

On the following pages you will find certain figures and comparisons, and I would like to thank the members of the Council, the Clerk (Mr. J. Percy R. Pym), and the Sanitary Inspector (Mr. F. Costello) for their help and co-operation during the past year.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

RICHARD C. ALLEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shows the rise and fall of the various Notifiable Diseases during the past six years:—

	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	9	11	6	7	9	9
Non-pulmonary ditto ...	4	6	5	10	2	1
Scarlet Fever	55	58	44	40	67	53
Diphtheria	7	5	14	42	5	5
Erysipelas	4	2	4	4	3	6
Pneumonia	2	10	6	6	8	11
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	1	2	2	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	1	1	1	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	—	—	—	—	6	3
Tubercular Meningitis...	—	—	—	—	1	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	31	164
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	14	3	40
Total	82	92	81	126	137	393

During the year 166 persons died—75 males and 91 females—a decrease of seven compared with the previous year. The death-rate was 11.16, compared with 11.95 in 1940, and 11.26 in 1939.

The following tables gives the causes of deaths registered in 1941:—

	M.	F.
Heart Disease	15	27
Other Circulatory Diseases	3	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	2
Other Tuberculosis	1	—
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	—
Pneumonia	1	2
Bronchitis	4	4
Premature Birth	7	—
Cancer	5	12
Nephritis	5	7
Diabetes	1	2
Diphtheria	—	1
Appendicitis	—	1
Other Digestive Diseases	—	4
Suicide	1	—
Other Violent Causes	5	2
Measles	1	—
Other Causes	22	27
Total	75	91

Births registered during the year totalled 192, of which number 90 were males and 102 females. The total represents an increase of two over the previous year, and seven over 1939. The birth-rate was 12.7, as against 12.85 in 1940, and 12.62 in 1939. There were seven still births, a decrease of one.

CASES OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES AT VARYING AGES DURING 1941.

Disease.	Under 1 year.	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	60	Total.
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	1	1	5	5	31	4	2	4	—	—	—	53
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	5	3	11
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	2	6
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	3	1	—	9
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Measles	3	13	23	38	34	130	21	2	—	—	—	—	264
Whooping Cough	1	2	3	6	8	9	10	—	1	—	—	—	40
Diphtheria	—	—	—	1	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	5
												Total	393

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting for your consideration my second Annual Report, which is for the year ending 31st December, 1941.

Problems connected with the War, such as shortage of labour and materials, salvage work and A.R.P., have made the work of the Department difficult, but taking everything into consideration, I think the Council can be well satisfied with the activities of its Health Department.

During the year 121 houses were thoroughly inspected and recorded; visits were also made to a further 263 houses.

Arising out of these inspections, the following work has been carried out after the serving of notices.

Conversion of pail closets into water-closets	9
Conversion of privy-closets into water-closets	5
Conversion of tipplerlosets into waterclosets	11
Flushing apparatus provided to closets previously without	9
Number of closets re-built	3
Additional water-closets provided	12
New W.C. basins provided to replace broken ones	7
New W.C. cisterns provided to replace defective ones	3
Other repairs to closets	4
Defective or choked drains made good	15
Premises connected to Council's sewer	2
New firegrates fixed	6
Repairs to firegrates (*e.g.*, ovens, fire-bars, etc.)	15
Provision of roof spouting and down-pipes	12
Roofs repaired	22
Defective plasterwork made good	18
Handrails provided to stairs	36
New windows	18
Repairs to windows, including sash-cords	8
New doors fixed	3
Repairs to defective doors	6
New wash-boilers provided	2
Washing accommodation provided to houses previously without	2
Repairs to stairs	3
New tiled floors laid	3
Repairs to bedroom floors	4
Glazed sinks provided	3
Provision of food-stores	2
Pointing of outside walls	4
Dirty and verminous houses cleansed and fumigated	6
Yard paving re-laid	2
Other defects remedied	6
Provision of dustbins	133

Inspections and re-visits with regard to the above work and drainage works in progress, together with inspections of farms, cowsheds, factories, food premises, petroleum storage, and infectious diseases, amount to 1,289.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

At the end of 1941 there were 3244 water closets;
347 pail closets;
142 privy middens.

Nine pails, five privies, and 11 tippler-closets have been converted to the water carriage system, together with flushing apparatus provided to nine other closets previously flushed with pails of water.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODSTUFFS.

During the year the following foodstuffs were condemned: Pork, 58 lbs.; ham, 46 lbs.; bacon, 107 lb.; butter, 46 lbs.; corned beef, 239 lbs.; tinned tongue, 12 lbs.; tinned ham, 6 lbs.; tinned fruit, 87 lbs.; onions, 32 lbs.; tinned vegetables and soups, 134 tins.

All food premises were found to be in a reasonably clean state.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

Number of dairies and cowsheds on the Register	45
Visits to dairies and cowsheds	39
Number of cowsheds limewashed after notice	5
Number of cowshed walls cement rendered after notice	3
New floors to cowsheds	2
Provision of dairies	2
Provision of milk coolers	2
Additional windows to cowsheds	4
Improvements to drainage of cowsheds	2

WATER SUPPLIES.

During the year there were no additions, extensions, or improvements to the Council's water mains or reservoirs, but the preparations for chlorinating the supplies were being proceeded with. Eight samples of water were taken for analysis, and all were satisfactory.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The usual maintenance work was the only work carried out last year, there being neither additions nor alterations.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Difficulties with regard to labour, transport, and the extra work in connection with salvage made the work more difficult, but throughout the year it was nearly possible to

maintain a weekly collection. It is my opinion that in the near future the Council will have to consider the purchase of an additional motor to replace the horse and cart, and so have two motors engaged in refuse collection instead of one motor and one horse and cart. I must remind the Council that many new houses have been built during the years preceding the war, and most of these are on the outskirts of the district, and there has been no increase of staff or transport to deal with same.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year 65 houses were fumigated after infectious disease, and the usual enquiries made; six other houses were fumigated for vermin infestation.

In conclusion, I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for the help they have afforded me during the year.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. COSTELLO,

Sanitary Inspector.